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Letter dated 19 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to draw your attention to the provocative and aggressive statement made by the Israeli Defence Minister, Moshe Yaalon, on 5 May 2015, at the Shurat HaDin Law of War Conference in Jerusalem, in which he threatened to use nuclear bombs against Iran and to continue killing civilians, including women and children, in Gaza and Lebanon.

In response to a question about Iran, Mr. Yaalon said that "in certain cases ... we should be able to take certain decisions ... we should be sure that it is a military necessity and consider the costs and benefits". Referring to the decision taken by President Truman "to launch bombs against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, causing at the end the fatalities of 200,000", he added, "we are not there yet". He further said: "I am talking about certain steps in cases in which we feel like we don't have the answer by surgical operations ...".

In this speech, Mr. Yaalon also threatens that "we are going to hurt Lebanese civilians to include kids of the family. We went through a very long deep discussion ... we did it then, we did it in [the] Gaza Strip, we are going to do it in any round of hostilities in the future".[1]

The speech is important as it sheds some light on the state of mind of the Israeli officials and displays the nature of their regime. Despite the previous deceitful manoeuvres, the official points to nuclear warheads this regime has in its possession. He clearly tries to excuse the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and cruelly refers to the resulting enormous loss of human lives as a trivial matter. He bluntly threatens to use this inhumane weapon against Iran, shrugging off the possible fatalities that would be in the hundreds of thousands, if not millions. He reveals the premeditated nature of the attacks on civilians in Lebanon and Gaza, defends these attacks and speaks in a cold-blooded manner about his regime's readiness to go on repeated killing sprees, massacring thousands of civilians.

The speech is reckless in the sense that it directly challenges the fundamental principles of the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law and undermines international peace and security. For this reason, we expect the Security Council to condemn this irresponsible speech and open threat to use nuclear bombs and to kill civilians.

[1] The full video of this speech may be retrieved from YouTube.

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I should be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative